Learning Conversation Notes

Name of Partner: Dental

Date: Nov. 1, 2004

When Served:

July 1, 2004- present

Number of Children Served - broken down by age & gender:

- 19 children screened at the WIC office in Kings Beach 7 boys and 12 girls
- 42 0-5 children were screened at the State Pre School in Truckee
 - 14 4 year old girls
 - 6 3 year old girls
 - 15 4 year old boys
 - 7 3 year old boys

****Of the total 61 children screened 17 needed treatment - **10 children have started treatment and 7 are on a waiting list <9 girls and 8 boys>

 83 adults have participated in the Sonrisitas program throughout the Tahoe Region, reaching 126 children - 71 boys and 55 girls and 18 pregnant women

Conversation Participants: Kim Bradley, Alison Schwedner, Tamara Lieberman, Sylvia Ambriz, Kathy McHugh, Don Ferretti, Mike Romero, Nancy Baggett, Gail Tondettar, Gladys Wilson, Diana Handler, Margarita de Nevarez, Martha Cerna, Ruth Hall, and Shannon Rosal.

Desired Outcomes:

- 1. All children 0-5 who participate in the program will have good oral health.
- 2. All parents of children 0-5 years served through the program will understand and demonstrate good oral health practices.
- 3. More dental capacity will exist locally to serve any oral health needs of children 0-5.

Performance Measures:

- Demographics
- Records and Pre & Post Surveys from the "Sonrisitas" program
- Tracking and Follow Up on Dental Visits
- Increase in Dental Providers serving 0-5
- Pictures & Stories

What is this data telling us about achievement of outcomes? Pre & Post Survey Summary from the previous program:

- 10% of the program participants have regular family dentists
- 90% said they had begun to use dental floss after being provided with the information.
- There has been an increase in the amount of participants that learned the importance of fluoride, sealants, and that the primary teeth are as important as the permanent teeth.

Pre Survey (since July 1, 2004) – given to participants of the 8 week Sonrisitas sessions in both Kings Beach and Truckee.

Kings Beach Survey:

- 4 out of 6 did not know where to find dental care
- 3 out of 6 brush infrequently
- 4 out of 6 use dental floss once a week
- 5 out of 6 don't have a dentist
- 5 out of 6 know the importance of taking minerals for healthy teeth

Truckee Pre Survey:

- 4 out of 5 did not know where to find dental care
- 0 out of 5 brush infrequently
- 4 out of 5 use dental floss once a week
- 5 out of 5 don't have a dentist
- 1 out of 5 know the importance of taking minerals for healthy teeth

Quotes from the survey

- All very appreciative for the classes, education, services and information for their families......
 - They are learning about their dental health and how important it is to their lives.
 - The results of the pre survey seem to be a good match with the outcome around what they need.
 - It stands out that they don't know how to find a dentist and don't have a dentist.

Increase in Dental Providers:

- The Placer County Clinic will be open one more day for dental services: 48 patients per week (it used to be 30 patients per week).
- The Placer County Clinic now takes private pay for dental care.
- The Dental Task Force has sent out surveys to all surrounding area dentists and they have received them back but are just now ready to analyze them. The survey asked surrounding area Dentists as to what they might be able to contribute for the Tahoe Region's dental needs.
- The Placer County Clinic is committed to assisting the Dentist in getting her Nitrous Oxide certification.

aanalanaanalyze the survey data.

In what ways will we apply what we have learned from our data?

- Design open-ended questions directly related to the outcome for the survey to capture the comments.
- Working to get more information to the public around dental services.
- Depending on the survey results the Dental Task Force needs to work on future strategies for increased dental services locally.

Other points that were made during the conversation:

- Promotoras work in the community through small presentations in different homes.
- Outreach efforts dental health education at WIC office, fairs, community wide events and the Sonrisitas classes
- 263 children are scheduled to be screened in November
- A new dentist has been hired and started October 17, 2004
- The clinic is now set up to take private pay for dental service
- Most people do not look for a dentist until they are in pain

Stories shared by the Promotoras relating to the outcomes:

- As a result of the Sonrisitas session, a mother has started better dental hygiene practices, has begun getting additional calcium to her family, and has started using training cups and stopped using bottles and bottles with sweets.
- After taking the disclosing tablets, families start trying to see the Dentist right away.
- One mother has stopped using tequila on her babies' gums.
- Some families believe only privileged people can buy dental floss.
- Getting people to attend the Sonrisitias classes is difficult and even more difficult with bad weather.
- Several families are having trouble filling out paperwork to list their dental history.
- Some families do not follow up on dental treatment once appointments are made and at times can get to the point of even making a CPS referral.
- It would be interesting to know how long children have been in the area before they needed treatment.

Next Steps:

- The Dental Task Force needs to decide what they are truly collecting as part of their performance measure of tracking and follow up of dental visits to see if there are changes in children 0-5 and their dental health. The reason to track & follow up on dental visits is to see that children have received care and know how to take care of their dental health so that they do not need to come back unless it is for screening.
- Work on the registration records from the Sonrisitas program and possibly those children being screened to track how long children are in the area before receiving treatment.
- Linkage between presentations and evaluation answers.
- Discuss how often they should screen.
- Discuss strategies on achieving increased dental capacity locally maybe look back at what was working in the past with some of the local dentists.
- New challenges to serve the children in Truckee need to further discuss this.
- Next meeting with First 5 should be sometime in April.